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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
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POLE PRODUCTION IN 1951 1/

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The production of poles in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region 2/ increased moderately during 1951. About 465,000 poles, 19 percent more than in 1950, were produced in this area (table 1). All of the increase occurred in Montana and North Idaho with increases of 46 and 7 percent, respectively. Production in Northeast Washington fell nearly 9 percent below that of 1950. The number of poles produced in 1951 was still far short of that harvested during the peak year of 1947 (table 2).

Although the quantity of western redcedar poles decreased by 11 percent, this species still continued to be the leader, making up 41 percent of the total number of poles produced. Lodgepole pine continued in second place with nearly 30 percent, while western larch and Douglas-fir followed with 27 and 2 percent of the total production.

Table 1. Number of poles produced in 1951

Species	Northern Rocky Mountain Region				Percent of total
	Montana	North Idaho	Northeast Washington	Total	
	Number of pieces				Percent
Western redcedar	21,013	134,040	37,218	192,271	41.3
Lodgepole pine	134,489	41	2,098	136,628	29.4
Western larch	54,789	56,222	15,321	126,332	27.1
Douglas-fir	5,897	3,038	1,181	10,116	2.2
Total	216,188	193,341	55,818	465,347	--
Percent	46.5	41.5	12.0	100.0	100.0

1/ The Rocky Mountain Pole and Treating Association sponsored the survey of pole production for 1951. All of the pole-producing companies reported their production. The cooperation of these companies in supplying the data is greatly appreciated.

2/ The Northern Rocky Mountain Region includes Montana, Idaho north of the Salmon River, and Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties in Northeast Washington.

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Table 2. Percent of change in 1951 from 1950 and 1947

Species	1950	1947
Western redcedar	-11.4	-16.7
Lodgepole pine	+48.0	-61.1
Western larch	+76.3	-43.1
Douglas-fir	+11.5	+56.3
Total	+19.3	-42.6

A quick review of table 3 will reveal that, with the exception of Douglas-fir, there has been no consistent upward or downward trend in production during the past five years. The number of poles produced seems to vary directly with the current demand for this product.

Table 3. Comparison of pole production by species, 1947-1951

Species	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	-Number of pieces-				
Western redcedar	230,872	212,785	286,116	217,049	192,271
Lodgepole pine	351,310	138,099	186,262	92,338	136,628
Western larch	221,990	90,879	121,214	71,651	126,332
Douglas-fir	6,473	5,419	5,720	9,070	10,116
Total	810,645	447,182	599,312	390,108	465,347

No marked change occurred in distribution of poles by either lengths or A.S.A. classes. In 1951, 77 percent of the poles were in lengths 40 feet and shorter as compared to 81 percent in 1950. A.S.A. classes 4 through 7 continued to be the most popular, remaining at practically the same level of production as in 1950. Table 4 gives a complete picture of the distribution of poles by A.S.A. class and length.

Table 4. Classification of 1951 pole production by A.S.A. class, length, and species

Northern Rocky Mountain Region

Pole length	A.S.A. Class 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	All
Feet	--Percent of total--										
					Western redcedar						
25 & shorter	0.11	0.22	0.36	0.41	1.06	1.73	1.83	1.22	1.97	0.46	9.37
30	0.13	0.34	0.61	1.37	3.55	5.12	5.86	1.63	0.31	-	18.92
35	0.26	0.62	1.34	3.80	8.47	7.71	5.47	0.35	0	0	28.02
40	0.38	0.91	2.26	4.71	5.70	2.44	0.23	0	0	0	16.63
45	0.44	0.96	2.15	3.61	2.57	0.15	0	0	0	0	9.88
50	0.48	0.99	1.86	2.57	0.58	0	0	0	0	0	6.48
55& longer	1.86	3.15	3.44	2.21	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	10.70
All	3.66	7.19	12.02	18.68	21.97	17.15	13.39	3.20	2.28	0.46	100.00
					Lodgepole pine						
25 & shorter	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.13	0.89	1.13	1.77	0.13	0.58	0.06	4.82
30	0.04	0.05	0.13	0.85	2.66	8.63	15.18	0.35	0	0	27.89
35	0.05	0.17	0.87	3.15	9.82	17.68	12.55	0.29	0	0	44.58
40	0.05	0.19	0.98	3.09	5.90	3.56	0.01	0	0	0	13.78
45	0.04	0.22	1.51	3.07	1.58	0.01	0	0	0	0	6.43
50	0.04	0.17	0.65	0.48	0.02	0.03	0	0	0	0	1.39
55 & longer	0.07	0.23	0.60	0.21	-	0	0	0	0	0	1.11
All	0.31	1.07	4.81	10.98	20.87	31.04	29.51	0.77	0.58	0.06	100.00
					Western larch						
25 & shorter	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.17	0.34	0.80	2.31	0.11	1.33	0.84	5.99
30	0.04	0.11	0.25	2.06	4.21	6.66	5.11	0.14	0.27	0	18.85
35	0.07	0.29	1.15	5.68	10.39	8.27	4.67	0.01	0.01	0	30.54
40	0.13	0.76	2.23	7.93	6.97	2.25	0.03	0	0	0	20.30
45	0.20	1.42	3.67	4.93	2.56	0.36	0	0	0	0	13.14
50	0.24	1.26	1.52	1.03	0.22	0	0	0	0	0	4.27
55& longer	1.46	2.85	1.75	0.78	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	6.91
All	2.16	6.73	10.60	22.58	24.76	18.34	12.12	0.26	1.61	0.84	100.00
					Douglas-fir						
25 & shorter	-	0	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.01	0	0	0.18
30	0.11	0.32	0.54	1.54	4.15	2.67	0.70	-	0	0	10.03
35	0.17	0.69	2.43	8.54	13.29	4.41	1.19	0.03	0	0	30.75
40	0.26	1.07	2.69	8.65	9.93	0.58	-	0	0	0	23.18
45	0.44	1.31	2.96	4.56	1.41	0.02	0	0	0	0	10.70
50	0.47	1.38	2.81	1.37	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	6.05
55 & longer	3.16	5.83	9.14	0.98	-	0	0	0	0	0	19.11
All	4.61	10.60	20.61	25.67	28.84	7.73	1.90	0.04	0	0	100.00
					All species						
25 & shorter	0.06	0.12	0.19	0.26	0.79	1.26	1.81	0.63	1.38	0.43	6.93
30	0.09	0.22	0.41	1.42	3.54	6.11	7.47	0.88	0.21	-	20.35
35	0.16	0.44	1.26	4.40	9.54	9.90	6.62	0.24	-	0	32.56
40	0.24	0.72	1.99	5.35	6.32	2.53	0.12	0	0	0	17.27
45	0.30	0.92	2.41	3.86	2.26	0.16	0	0	0	0	9.91
50	0.32	0.89	1.57	1.66	0.33	0.01	0	0	0	0	4.78
55 & longer	1.44	2.60	2.78	1.34	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	8.20
All	2.61	5.91	10.61	18.29	22.82	19.97	16.02	1.75	1.59	0.43	100.00

Dash indicates less than 0.01 percent; zero, no production.